AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An implantable constriction device for forming a restricted stoma opening in the stomach or esophagus of a patient, comprising:

an elongate ~~non-inflatable~~ composite structure adapted to externally constrict the stomach or esophagus, ~~wherein~~ said elongate composite structure ~~is composed of~~ comprising:

an elongate member for constricting the stomach or esophagus of the patient, the elongate member having end portions,

a base material surrounding the elongate member, the base material making said composite structure self-supporting, and

property improving means for improving at least one physical property of said composite structure other than self-supporting properties, said property improving means including at least one layer applied on said base material, and

an adjustment means adapted to displace the end portions of the elongate member relative to each other to ~~mechanically~~ adjust the ~~non-inflatable~~ elongate member, and thereby, the composite structure to either enlarge or restrict the stoma opening.

2. Cancelled

3. Cancelled

4. Cancelled

5. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 2, wherein said property improving means comprises a core of a viscoelastic material covered with said self-supporting base material.

6. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 5, wherein hard silicone constitutes said base material.

7. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 5, wherein said viscoelastic material is selected from the group consisting of silicone gel, cellulose gel, and collagen gel.

8. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 2, wherein said base material forms an inflatable tubing.

9. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 8, wherein said tubing has an inner surface defining the interior of said tubing, and said coating covers said inner surface.

10. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 8, wherein said coating is selected from the group consisting of Tetrafluoroethylene polymer Teflon™, a poly-para-xylylene polymer Parylene™, and a biocompatible metal coating.

11. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 10, wherein the biocompatible metal coating is selected from the group consisting of gold, silver and titanium.

12. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 8, wherein hard silicone constitutes said base material.

13. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 8, wherein said base material forms two coaxial tubular layers and said property improving means comprises a tubular intermediate layer of a viscoelastic material located between said coaxial tubular layers.

14. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 13, wherein said viscoelastic material is selected from the group consisting of silicone gel, cellulose gel, and collagen gel.

15. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 8, wherein said base material forms an outer tubular layer, an inner arcuate layer attached to said outer

tubular layer, said outer and inner layers defining a curved space extending longitudinally along said tubing, and said property improving means comprises viscoelastic material filling said space.

16. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 15, wherein said viscoelastic material is selected from the group consisting of silicone gel, cellulose gel, and collagen gel.

17. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 1, wherein said layer of said property improving means comprises a coating on said base material at least along a side of said elongate composite structure that is intended to contact the stomach or esophagus.

18. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 17, wherein said coating is selected from the group consisting of a tetrafluoroethylene polymer, a poly-para-xylylene polymer, and a biocompatible metal coating.

19. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 18, wherein the biocompatible metal coating is selected from the group consisting of gold, silver and titanium.

20. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 17, wherein

said property improving means comprises a core of a viscoelastic material covered with said self-supporting base material.

21. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 20, wherein hard silicone constitutes said base material.

22. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 20, wherein said viscoelastic material is selected from the group consisting of silicone gel, cellulose gel, and collagen gel.

23. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 17, wherein said base material forms an inflatable tubing.

24. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 23, wherein said tubing has an inner surface defining the interior of said tubing, and said coating covers said inner surface.

25. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 23, wherein said coating is selected from the group consisting of a Tetrafluoroethylene polymer Teflon™, a poly-para-xylylene polymer Parylene™, and a biocompatible metal coating.

26. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 25, wherein

the biocompatible metal coating is selected from the group consisting of gold, silver and titanium.

27. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 23, wherein hard silicone constitutes said base material.

28. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 23, wherein said base material forms two coaxial tubular layers and said property improving means comprises a tubular intermediate layer of a viscoelastic material located between said coaxial tubular layers.

29. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 28, wherein said viscoelastic material is selected from the group consisting of silicone gel, cellulose gel, and collagen gel.

30. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 23, wherein said base material forms an outer tubular layer, an inner arcuate layer attached to said outer tubular layer, said outer and inner layers defining a curved space extending longitudinally along said tubing, and said property improving means comprises a viscoelastic material filling said space.

31. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 30, wherein

said viscoelastic material is selected from the group consisting of silicone gel, cellulose gel, and collagen gel.

32. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 1, wherein said base material forms a first layer and said property improving means comprises a second layer applied on said first layer, said second layer being more fatigue resistant than said first layer.

33. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 32, wherein said second layer covers said first layer of said base material along a side of said elongate composite structure that is intended to contact the stomach or esophagus.

34. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 32, wherein said second layer comprises a polyurethane layer.

35. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 32, wherein said property improving means comprises a coating coated on said first layer and/or said second layer, said coating having better aggressive body fluid resistance properties and/or better anti-friction properties than said base material.

36. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 35, wherein said coating is selected from the group consisting of Tetrafluoroethylene polymer Teflon™,

a poly-para-xylylene polymer Parylene™, and biocompatible metal coating.

37. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 36, wherein the biocompatible metal coating is selected from the group consisting of gold, silver and titanium.

38. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 32, wherein hard silicone constitutes said base material.

39. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 32, wherein said first layer of said base material forms an inflatable tubing, and said second layer covers said base material within said tubing.

40. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 1, wherein said base material forms an inflatable tubing and said property improving means comprises a liquid impermeable coating coated on said base material.

41. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 40, wherein said tubing has an external surface of said base material and an internal surface of said base material defining the interior of said tubing, said coating being coated on said external surface and/or internal surface.

42. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 40, wherein said coating is selected from the group consisting of a poly-para-xylylene polymer Parylene™ and a biocompatible metal coating.

43. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 42, wherein the biocompatible metal coating is selected from the group consisting of gold, silver and titanium.

44. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 40, wherein hard silicone constitutes said base material.

45. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 40, wherein said base material forms two coaxial tubular layers and said property improving means comprises a tubular intermediate layer of a viscoelastic material located between said coaxial tubular layers.

46. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 44, wherein said viscoelastic material comprises silicone gel, cellulose gel or collagen gel.

47. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 40, wherein said base material forms an outer tubular layer and an inner arcuate layer attached to said outer tubular layer, said outer and inner layers defining a curved space extending

longitudinally along said tubing, and said property improving means comprises viscoelastic material filling said space.

48. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 47, wherein said viscoelastic material is selected from the group consisting of silicone gel, cellulose gel, and collagen gel.

49. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 1, wherein said property improving means comprises gas contained in a multiplicity of cavities formed in said base material to improve the flexibility of said composite structure.

50. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 49, wherein said cavities are defined by net structures of said base material.

51. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 49, wherein Tetrafluoroethylene polymer Teflon™ constitutes said base material.

52. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 49, wherein said composite structure forms an inflatable tubing.

53. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device for forming a restricted stoma opening in the stomach or esophagus of a patient, comprising an elongate composite

structure adapted to constrict the stomach or esophagus of the patient, wherein the composite structure includes an elongate biocompatible self-supporting base material having surfaces exposed to aggressive body cells, when the constriction device is implanted in the patient, and a cell barrier coating coated on said surfaces to prevent body cells from breaking down the base material.

54. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 53, wherein said barrier coating is selected from the group consisting of a poly-para-xylylene polymer Parylene™ and a biocompatible metal coating.

55. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 54, wherein the biocompatible metal coating is selected from the group consisting of gold, silver and titanium.

56. (Currently Amended) An implantable constriction device for forming a restricted stoma opening in the stomach or esophagus of a patient, comprising:

~~non-inflatable~~ elongate constricting means for externally constricting the stomach or esophagus of the patient,

means for making the constricting means self-supporting, the self supporting means surrounding the constricting means,

means for improving at least one physical property of said constricting means other than self-supporting properties, said property improving means being applied on the self

supporting means, and

means for ~~mechanically~~ adjusting the constricting means to either enlarge or restrict the stoma opening,

wherein said physical property improving means improves the resistance to aggressive body cells.

57. Cancelled

58. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 56, wherein said property improving means comprises at least one layer on said self-supporting means at least along a side of said elongate constricting means that is intended to contact the stomach or esophagus.

59. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 58, wherein said layer is selected from the group consisting of a tetrafluoroethylene polymer, a poly-para-xylylene polymer, and a biocompatible metal layer.

60. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 59, wherein the biocompatible metal layer is selected from the group consisting of gold, silver and titanium.

61. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 56, wherein

said property improving means improves the flexibility of said constricting means.

62. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 61, wherein said property improving means comprises a core of a viscoelastic material covered with said self-supporting base material.

63. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 62, wherein hard silicone constitutes said self-supporting means.

64. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 62, wherein said viscoelastic material is selected from the group consisting of silicone gel, cellulose gel, and collagen gel.

65. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 61, wherein said property improving means comprises gas contained in a multiplicity of cavities formed in said self-supporting means to improve the flexibility of said constricting means.

66. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 65, wherein said cavities are defined by net structures of said self-supporting means.

67. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 65, wherein Tetrafluoroethylene polymer Teflon™ constitutes said self-supporting means.

68. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 56, wherein said property improving means improves the fatigue resistance of said constricting means.

69. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 68, wherein said self-supporting means forms a first layer and said property improving means comprises a second layer applied on said first layer, said second layer being more fatigue resistant than said first layer.

70. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 69, wherein said second layer covers said first layer of said self-supporting means along a side of said elongate constricting means that is intended to contact the esophagus or stomach.

71. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 69, wherein said second layer comprises a polyurethane layer.

72. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 56, wherein said property improving means improves the liquid impermeability of said constricting means.

73. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 72, wherein said self-supporting means forms an inflatable tubing and said property improving means

comprises a liquid impermeable coating coated on said self-supporting means.

74. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 73, wherein said tubing has an external surface of said self-supporting means and an internal surface of said self-supporting means defining the interior of said tubing, said coating being coated on said external surface and/or internal surface.

75. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 73, wherein said coating is selected from the group consisting of a poly-para-xylylene polymer Parylene™ and a biocompatible metal coating.

76. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 75, wherein the biocompatible metal coating is selected from the group consisting of gold, silver and titanium.

77. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device according to claim 55, wherein hard silicon constitutes said self-supporting means.

78. (Canceled)

79. Canceled

80. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device for forming a restricted stoma opening in the stomach or esophagus of a patient, comprising:

an elongate composite structure adapted to constrict the stomach or esophagus of the patient,

a base material of said composite structure making said composite structure self-supporting, said base material forming a first layer, and

a second layer applied on said first layer, said second layer being more fatigue resistant than said first layer.

81. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device for forming a restricted stoma opening in the stomach or esophagus of a patient, comprising:

an elongate composite structure adapted to constrict the stomach or esophagus of the patient,

a liquid semi-permeable base material of said composite structure forming an inflatable tubing and making said composite structure self-supporting, and

a liquid impermeable coating coated on said base material.

82. (Withdrawn) An implantable constriction device for forming a restricted stoma opening in the stomach or esophagus of a patient, comprising:

an elongate composite structure adapted to constrict the stomach or esophagus of the patient, and

a base material of said composite structure making said composite structure self-

supporting, said base material forming a multiplicity of gas-containing cavities to improve the flexibility of said composite structure.

83. (Currently Amended) An implantable constriction device for forming a restricted stoma opening in the stomach or esophagus of a patient, comprising:

~~non-inflatable~~ elongate means for externally constricting the stomach or esophagus of the patient,

means for making the constricting means self-supporting, the self supporting means surrounding the constricting means,

means for improving at least one physical property of said constricting means other than self-supporting properties, said property improving means being applied on the self supporting means, and

means for ~~mechanically~~ adjusting the ~~non-inflatable~~ composite structure to either enlarge or restrict the stoma opening,

wherein said property improving means improves the anti-friction properties of said constricting means.

84. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 83, wherein said property improving means comprises at least one layer on said self-supporting means at least along a side of said elongate constricting means that is intended to contact the stomach or esophagus.

85. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim

84, wherein said layer is selected from the group consisting of a tetrafluoroethylene polymer, a poly-para-xylylene polymer, and a biocompatible metal layer.

86. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 85, wherein the biocompatible metal layer is selected from the group consisting of gold, silver and titanium.

87. (Currently Amended) An implantable constriction device for forming a restricted stoma opening in the stomach or esophagus of a patient, comprising:

~~non-inflatable~~ elongate means for externally constricting the stomach or esophagus of the patient,

means for making the constricting means self-supporting, the self supporting means surrounding the constricting means,

means for improving at least one physical property of said constricting means other than self-supporting properties, said property improving means being applied on the self supporting means, and

means for ~~mechanically~~ adjusting the ~~non-inflatable~~ composite structure to either enlarge or restrict the stoma opening,

wherein said property improving means improves the liquid impermeability of said constricting means.

88. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim

87, wherein said property improving means comprises at least one layer on said self-supporting means at least along a side of said elongate constricting means that is intended to contact the stomach or esophagus.

89. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 88, wherein said layer is selected from the group consisting of a tetrafluoroethylene polymer, a poly-para-xylylene polymer, and a biocompatible metal layer.

90. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 89, wherein the biocompatible metal layer is selected from the group consisting of gold, silver and titanium.

91. (Currently Amended) An implantable constriction device for forming a restricted stoma opening in the stomach or esophagus of a patient, comprising:

~~non-inflatable~~ elongate means for externally constricting the stomach or esophagus of the patient,

means for making the constricting means self-supporting, the self supporting means surrounding the constricting means,

means for improving at least one physical property of said constricting means other than self-supporting properties, said property improving means being applied on the self supporting means, and

means for ~~mechanically~~ adjusting the ~~non-inflatable~~ composite structure to either

enlarge or restrict the stoma opening,

wherein said property improving means improves the softness of said constricting means.

92. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 91, wherein said property improving means comprises at least one layer on said self-supporting means at least along a side of said elongate constricting means that is intended to contact the stomach or esophagus.

93. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 92, wherein said layer comprises a viscoelastic material.

94. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 93, wherein said viscoelastic material comprises silicone gel, cellulose gel or collagen gel.

95. (Currently Amended) An implantable constriction device for forming a restricted stoma opening in the stomach or esophagus of a patient, comprising:

~~non-inflatable~~ elongate means for externally constricting the stomach or esophagus of the patient,

means for making the constricting means self-supporting, the self supporting means surrounding the constricting means,

means for improving at least one physical property of said constricting means other

than self-supporting properties, said property improving means being applied on the self supporting means, and

means for ~~mechanically~~ adjusting the ~~non-inflatable~~ composite structure to either enlarge or restrict the stoma opening,

wherein said property improving means improves the strength of said constricting means.

96. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 95, wherein said property improving means comprises at least one layer on said self-supporting means at least along a side of said elongate constricting means that is intended to contact the stomach or esophagus.

97. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 96, wherein said layer is selected from the group consisting of a tetrafluoroethylene polymer, a poly-para-xylylene polymer, and a biocompatible metal layer.

98. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 97, wherein the biocompatible metal layer is selected from the group consisting of gold, silver and titanium.

99. (Currently Amended) An implantable constriction device for forming a restricted stoma opening in the stomach or esophagus of a patient, comprising:

~~non-inflatable~~ elongate means for externally constricting the stomach or esophagus of the patient,

means for making the constricting means self-supporting, the self supporting means surrounding the constricting means,

means for improving at least one physical property of said constricting means other than self-supporting properties, said property improving means being applied on the self supporting means, and

means for ~~mechanically~~ adjusting the ~~non-inflatable~~ composite structure to either enlarge or restrict the stoma opening,

wherein said property improving means improves the fatigue resistance of said constricting means.

100. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 99, wherein said property improving means comprises at least one layer on said self-supporting means at least along a side of said elongate constricting means that is intended to contact the stomach or esophagus.

101. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 100, wherein said layer is selected from the group consisting of a tetrafluoroethylene polymer, a poly-para-xylylene polymer, and a biocompatible metal layer.

102. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 101, wherein the biocompatible metal layer is selected from the group consisting of gold, silver and titanium.

103. (Currently Amended) An implantable constriction device for forming a restricted stoma opening in the stomach or esophagus of a patient, comprising:

~~non-inflatable~~ elongate means for externally constricting the stomach or esophagus of the patient,

means for making the constricting means self-supporting, the self supporting means surrounding the constricting means,

means for improving at least one physical property of said constricting means other than self-supporting properties, said property improving means being applied on the self supporting means, and

means for ~~mechanically~~ adjusting the ~~non-inflatable~~ composite structure to either enlarge or restrict the stoma opening,

wherein said property improving means improves the fatigue resistance of said constricting means.

104. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 103, wherein said property improving means comprises at least one layer on said self-supporting means at least along a side of said elongate constricting means that is intended to contact the stomach or esophagus.

105. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 104, wherein said layer is selected from the group consisting of a tetrafluoroethylene polymer, a poly-para-xylylene polymer, and a biocompatible metal layer.

106. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 105, wherein the biocompatible metal layer is selected from the group consisting of gold, silver and titanium.

107. (Currently Amended) An implantable constriction device for forming a restricted stoma opening in the stomach or esophagus of a patient, comprising:

~~non-inflatable~~ elongate means for externally constricting the stomach or esophagus of the patient,

means for making the constricting means self-supporting, the self supporting means surrounding the constricting means,

means for improving at least one physical property of said constricting means other than self-supporting properties, said property improving means being applied on the self supporting means, and

means for ~~mechanically~~ adjusting the ~~non-inflatable~~ composite structure to either enlarge or restrict the stoma opening,

wherein said property improving means improves the aggressive body fluid resistant properties of said constricting means.

108. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 107, wherein said property improving means comprises at least one layer on said self-supporting means at least along a side of said elongate constricting means that is intended to contact the stomach or esophagus.

109. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 108, wherein said layer is selected from the group consisting of a tetrafluoroethylene polymer, a poly-para-xylylene polymer, and a biocompatible metal layer.

110. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 109, wherein the biocompatible metal layer is selected from the group consisting of gold, silver and titanium.

111. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 1, wherein said layer of said property improving means comprises an aggressive body cell barrier layer.

112. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 111, wherein said layer of said property improving means is applied on said base material at least along a side of said elongate composite structure that is intended to contact the stomach or esophagus.

113. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 112, wherein said layer of said property improving means comprises a coating on said base material.

114. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 112, wherein said layer is selected from the group consisting of a tetrafluoroethylene polymer, a poly-para-xylylene polymer, and a biocompatible metal layer.

115. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 114, wherein the biocompatible metal layer is selected from the group consisting of gold, silver and titanium.

116. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 1, wherein said layer of said property improving means has better aggressive body fluid resistant properties than said base material.

117. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 116, wherein said layer of said property improving means is applied on said base material at least along a side of said elongate composite structure that is intended to contact the stomach or esophagus.

117. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 117, wherein said layer of said property improving means comprises a coating on said base material.

118. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 117, wherein said layer is selected from the group consisting of a tetrafluoroethylene polymer, a poly-para-xylylene polymer, and a biocompatible metal layer.

119. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 118, wherein the biocompatible metal layer is selected from the group consisting of gold, silver and titanium.

120. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 1, wherein said layer of said property improving means has better anti-friction properties than the base material.

121. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 120, wherein said layer of said property improving means is applied on said base material at least along a side of said elongate composite structure that is intended to contact the stomach or esophagus.

122. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim

121, wherein said layer of said property improving means comprises a coating on said base material.

123. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 121, wherein said layer is selected from the group consisting of a tetrafluoroethylene polymer, a poly-para-xylylene polymer, and a biocompatible metal layer.

124. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 123, wherein the biocompatible metal layer is selected from the group consisting of gold, silver and titanium.

125. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 1, wherein said layer of said property improving means comprises a liquid impermeable layer.

126. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 125, wherein said layer of said property improving means is applied on said base material at least along a side of said elongate composite structure that is intended to contact the stomach or esophagus.

127. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 126, wherein said layer of said property improving means comprises a coating on said base

material.

128. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 126, wherein said layer is selected from the group consisting of a tetrafluoroethylene polymer, a poly-para-xylylene polymer, and a biocompatible metal layer.

129. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 128, wherein the biocompatible metal layer is selected from the group consisting of gold, silver and titanium.

130. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 1, wherein said layer of said property improving means comprises a protective layer softer than the base material.

131. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 130, wherein said layer of said property improving means is applied on said base material at least along a side of said elongate composite structure that is intended to contact the stomach or esophagus.

132. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 131, wherein said layer of said property improving means comprises a viscoelastic material.

133. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 131, wherein said viscoelastic material comprises silicone gel, cellulose gel or collagen gel.

134. (Currently Amended) The implantable constriction device according to claim 133, wherein said silicone gel has a hardness less than 20 ~~Shure~~Shore.

135. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 1, wherein said layer of said property improving means is stronger than the base material.

136. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 135, wherein said layer of said property improving means is applied on said base material at least along a side of said elongate composite structure that is intended to contact the stomach or esophagus.

137. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 136, wherein said layer of said property improving means comprises a coating on said base material.

138. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 136, wherein said layer is selected from the group consisting of a tetrafluoroethylene polymer, a poly-para-xylylene polymer, and a biocompatible metal layer.

139. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 138, wherein the biocompatible metal layer is selected from the group consisting of gold, silver and titanium.

140. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 1, wherein said layer of said property improving means is more fatigue resistant than the base material.

141. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 140, wherein said layer of said property improving means is applied on said base material at least along a side of said elongate composite structure that is intended to contact the stomach or esophagus.

142. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 141, wherein said layer of said property improving means comprises a coating on said base material.

143. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 141, wherein said layer is selected from the group consisting of a tetrafluoroethylene polymer, a poly-para-xylylene polymer, and a biocompatible metal layer.

144. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim

143, wherein the biocompatible metal layer is selected from the group consisting of gold, silver and titanium.

145. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 1, wherein said base material is tubular.

146. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 145, wherein said layer of said property improving means is applied externally or internally on said tubular base material.

147. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 145, wherein said property improving means comprises a first layer applied externally on said tubular base material and a second layer applied internally on said tubular base material.

148. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 145, wherein said tubular base material comprises a double walled tubing having an external wall and an internal wall spaced from said external wall, whereby said external and internal walls define a space, and said layer of said property improving means extends in said space between said external and internal walls.

149. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 148, wherein said layer of said property improving means is softer than said external and

internal walls of said base material.

150. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 149, wherein said layer of said property improving means comprises a viscoelastic material.

151. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 150, wherein said composite structure comprises partition walls dividing said space between said external and internal walls into longitudinal cells, which are filled with said viscoelastic material.

152 (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 145, wherein said adjustment means comprises an elongate member sliding in said tubular base material.

153. (Previously Presented) The implantable constriction device according to claim 145, wherein said adjustment means is adapted to longitudinally displace said elongate composite structure to change the stoma opening.

154. (New) An implantable constriction device for forming a restricted stoma opening in the stomach or esophagus of a patient, comprising:

an elongate composite structure adapted to externally constrict the stomach or esophagus, said elongate composite structure comprising:

an elongate member for constricting the stomach or esophagus of the patient,

a base material attached to the elongate member, the base material making said composite structure self-supporting, and

property improving means for improving at least one physical property of said composite structure other than self-supporting properties, said property improving means including at least one layer applied on said base material, and

an adjustment means to adjust the elongate member, and thereby, the composite structure to either enlarge or restrict the stoma opening.